

CERRITOS, CA -- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez presented the Whittier City Council with a \$238,755 check on Tuesday evening for homework tutoring and after school programs at Dexter Middle School and the Whittier Public Library. Congresswoman Sánchez secured the federal funding in the 2008 omnibus appropriations bill, passed by Congress and signed by the president last month.

In addition to funding current services offered by the Club Dexter after-school program at Dexter Middle School and the Homework Center at Whittier Public Library, the new money will enhance these programs. Club Dexter will be expanded to include family events and promote good health. Money will also be used for staff training to improve the quality of the program. The new money will also pay for the Homework Center to maintain a professional librarian and access to online tutoring services.

“I am proud to bring our tax dollars back to our community for wise investments in our youth,” said Congresswoman Sánchez. “Our future depends on the success of today’s kids.”

The Homework Center, an integral part of the Whittier Public Library, provides homework assistance to students in the 2nd through 12th grades. Since opening in May 2004 approximately 13,023 students have used the Homework Center with an average of 374 student visits per month. Congresswoman Sánchez secured \$300,000 in federal funding in 2003 that helped create the Homework Center and fund its first years of operation.

Serving hundreds of Dexter Middle School students, Club Dexter provides an opportunity for all registered participants to receive homework assistance and participate in intramural sports, field trips and other enrichment programs. The SKILLS Foundation, established in Whittier in the early 1980’s, provides funding and volunteers for Club Dexter and serves as the Advisory Board for program development.

Board members from the Whittier Library and SKILLS Foundation attended Congresswoman Sánchez' presentation at the Whittier City Council meeting.